

# Messenger

## Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

March 21, 2013

Volume 25, Issue 7

### Farm to Feast Auction 2013



There's something about purchasing things you need or want through the Farm to Feast auction, knowing the proceeds will benefit the School. The magic of Summerfield depends upon it—our students deserve it. Many families anticipate it, and wait for this fun way to give. It's not really about what we find shopping—it's about the change we make through our gifts.

We are *now* collecting donated items for our auction, so send your items our way! We are happy to showcase your business or artistic creation. The auction is a vital part of our fundraising efforts and is so much FUN! We will be running the online auction in May and the silent auction at the Farm to Feast event on Saturday, June 1. We are looking for items such as getaways, restaurants, clothing, jewelry, wine, art, unique experiences, spa treatments, classes, crafts, and services—items of all kind are welcome!

#### *Why donate?*

- Auctions are a fun way to raise money
- Everyone may contribute in different ways, giving big or small donations
- Businesses are promoted & gain exposure to hundreds of viewers
- We show our children we care by supporting their school
- Contributions are tax deductible

We would also love to present class baskets again this year for both our raffle and silent auction. We loved last year's themes and ideas and welcome your contributions for this year.

The deadline for auction items and class baskets this year is Friday, April 26. We appreciate your early donations as it makes organizing the actual event much more efficient! For auction item donation forms, visit the Development Office or contact [auction@farmtofeast.org](mailto:auction@farmtofeast.org), or (new this year!) fill out the form online at our website, [farmtofeast.org](http://farmtofeast.org). Get ready for a fabulous auction and event!

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#### Important Dates:

##### Walk through the Grades: A Campus Tour

Wednesday, 4/24, 9am  
Meet in front of Sophia Hall

##### Senior Capstone Project Presentations!

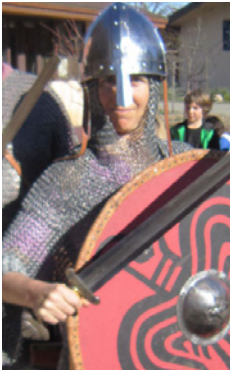
Tuesday through Thursday evenings,  
3/26—3/28, 7pm, Sophia Hall

#### FARM TO FEAST TICKETS

... are available in the Main Office and will be available on [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) at the end of the March. They are \$75 per person—we do expect to sell out, so get yours soon!

# Fourth Graders meet the Vikings!

By Laurie Hartsook, Fourth Grade Teacher



In every Waldorf school, the fourth grader encounters the great gods and goddesses of Norse mythology. Their rollicking stories, wrought with adventure and mischief, meet the 9- and 10-year-old child quite appropriately. This year, the fourth grade also had the chance to encounter some modern day “Norsemen.” The Vikings of Bjornstadt, through their living history presentation, gave us a picture of the people who created these stories. Snippets of the students’ thank-you letters follow, showing how much the fourth graders enjoyed this experience.

*Dear Viking of Bjornstadt,*

*Thank you for teaching me so much about Vikings... It was very entertaining when you fought... Your reenactments were very good... It was fun trying on the chain mail—it was heavy... It’s amazing that the bow sometimes weighed 100 pounds... I learned that helmets did not have horns... I like when we played tug-o-war... My strategy was when they pull, I loosen my hand... I learned that, back in those days, people were very short but stocky, and they were clean... I liked your copies of old relics from the Viking Age... Thank you so much for coming to our class!*



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## Culture of Philanthropy

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Coordinator

Recently, I have been giving thought to the fact that in modern times, many people seem to think of philanthropy in terms of the ability to give huge sums of money to charitable causes. A philanthropist is often vaguely defined as someone who gives thousands or millions of dollars to the charity of their choice, doing good things in the world mainly because they are wealthy and can do so. I beg to differ.

Philanthropy is much more than giving away vast sums of money, (although that is philanthropy at its finest). In fact, there are many overlooked philanthropists in the world—many folks who give don’t even consider themselves philanthropists. However, the culture of philanthropy is alive and well here at Summerfield, and in our broader community. I think it may be time to take a look at what that means, and how we can foster an even stronger culture of philanthropy.

The act of giving, of contributing what we can for the greater good, is philanthropy. It is something we are all capable of doing. Gifts, both big and small, contribute to this cause and make a difference for all. Sometimes it means we forgo other things in order to give in whatever capacity we can. It also means relying on those with greater means to give at a greater level.

I truly believe that, by supporting the institution of Summerfield, we are investing in future generations. We are making a difference by choosing to give in a way that supports education, sustainability and community.

*(Continued on Page Seven)*

## Class Group Photos

This year, at our photographer’s request, we have divided up the student picture-taking into two days. The individual photos were taken last fall, and **the class group photos are scheduled for Thursday, April 25th**, beginning at 9am for the kindergartens and then continuing on through all the LS Grades. *(High school photos have already been taken, as they were needed earlier for yearbooks.)* Please make every attempt to have your child present on that day and, if they are ill, perhaps they could even be brought at the appropriate time to participate in the photo and then go home. You are welcome to check in with the office to find out where your child’s class would be in the schedule (the approximate timing), on the day before or the morning of the photos. Ordering information for the group photos will be forthcoming. Please contact me with any questions.

*~ Leslie Young, LS Secretary*



# Summer Farm Camp

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1ST

Summer is just around the corner and we are making preparations for an exciting Summer Farm Camp. Summerfield offers six one-week sessions for children ages four to ten, June 17th through July 26th, 8:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Friday. Children may register for just one week or up to six weeks.

Our program for 4- to 5-year-olds makes its home in the Kindergarten village. The children take a journey to the Farm every day with visits to the animals, berry picking, egg gathering and vegetable harvesting. Leading the way this year will be our very own Summerfield Early Childhood teachers Line Westman and Sarah Whitmore.

The program for 6- to 10-year-olds meets at the Farm every day and begins with circle time on hay bales, then animal chores, garden work, cooking, as well as herb and vegetable harvesting, crafts and games. All children end their day with a story and lunch. We warmly welcome back teachers Ashley Radzat and Chris Rubino!

*\* Aftercare is available from 1:30pm–3:30pm by advance registration for both age groups.*

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND WITH A NEW NAME!

## Earth Ecology and Farm Camp FOR 10-TO-12-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

*Two one-week sessions, June 17th through June 28th, 8:30am-3:00pm, Monday through Friday.*

Children will learn life skills in ecology that can be applied in our “edible food forest” Permaculture Garden. Our day begins with animal chores, fruit and berry picking and preparing snack. Themes of fire, earth and water guide our curriculum and artistic activities. This includes gardening and composting, herbal crafting, papermaking, cooking, solar energy, having fun and building community. We are excited to announce that Summerfield’s beloved seventh grade teacher, Cody Smout, will be leading this camp!

*by Ronni Sands and Farmer Dana Revallo, for Farm Camp*

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR ALL CAMPS

... but the deadline is fast approaching on **April 1st**.

Please turn in your registration forms with payment so that your child will have a guaranteed place in this summer’s Farm Camp.

We have already received many outside registrations, therefore we encourage you to register now to secure your child’s place.

Forms for both camps are available in the Summerfield Main Office, Finance Office or on our website at [www.summerfieldwaldorf.org](http://www.summerfieldwaldorf.org).

Questions: contact our Farm Camp Registrar, Lisa Hensley at [farmcamp@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:farmcamp@summerfieldwaldorf.org), or call 575-7194, ext. 103.

## Festivals Build Connections

MAY FAIRE, FRIDAY, MAY 3

*By Leslie Young, Andrea Joliceur, Stephanie Everage and Annalyce LaSource*

A group of parents (volunteers mostly from the grades in charge—first and second) has been meeting Thursday mornings, 8:35 to 9:15am, to plan our school’s annual May Faire. This is our last festive hurrah on campus, together as a whole school, before June sends us in our many different directions. And why do we have a May Faire? Why, for the children, of course—so that they can see a model of people of all ages working together in a social initiative to celebrate our community and the glories of spring! That’s it in a nutshell—we’re modeling the social arts.

Festivities will begin after lunch on Friday, May 3, at 12:45pm, with the students making flower head-garlands, and then, from 1:30-3pm, we will be able to watch these young dancers twirling around the maypole (and even kick up our own heels!). After 3:15pm, a carnival of games, crafts and food will commence, with a hearty meal and drinks (eighth grade fundraiser) and strawberry shortcake (eleventh grade fundraiser) for sale. The event will end at 5:30pm.

In upcoming newsletters and class emails, you will be notified of the specific tasks we’ll need to have covered: set-up/decoration, baking, garland-making, games, ticket-taking, parking and clean-up. Each class, as well, is being asked to organize a special children’s activity for the faire. Please let any of us know your volunteering preference, so we can join in making this day a special one to enliven the hearts of our community.

All will be welcome, so please invite your friends and relatives. Cost for the activities will be as follows: unlimited participation for each child-\$10; for two siblings-\$15; and for three siblings-\$20. Wearing white or pastel colored clothing is strongly requested, as well as bringing blankets or low lawn-chairs for seating, hats, sunscreen, and your family’s utensils for eating and drinking. The event will be set on the east side of the Lower School, in the track area, as it was last year.

Thanks, in advance, for all your help!



# Class Eight's Journey Together...

by Sandra Sheffield, Class Eight parent

To highlight their incredible journey together, Class Eight is planning a five-day marine science field trip to Santa Catalina Island at the end of the year, and so is organizing a community service event and fundraiser titled Oceans Awareness Celebration and Green Flea Market. It will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 9am to 3pm, on campus, and the hope is to raise the approximately \$10,000 that is still needed to fund the trip.

The Students are looking forward to the opportunity to kayak, snorkel, swim, and perhaps see flying fish, dolphins, and bald eagles, etc., as well as engage with marine scientists, gaining first-hand knowledge of the beauty, wonder and dramatic issues facing oceans and marine habitats. In addition, they will be assisting the Catalina Island Conservancy in an ecological service project.

Waldorf classes typically take an experiential field trip each year to enhance learning and bring certain aspects of the curriculum to life. In a very real way, this trip is an expression of the student's growth

as individuals—expressing their need to step away from the familiar, take on personal challenges, and make a difference in the world.

For Mr. Basmajian's class, this trip will be especially bittersweet. Though some of the students joined only a year or two ago, the majority have been together for over six years plus—some have been together for even eleven or twelve! These students have experienced academic and athletic successes, weathered disappointments, heartaches and small-minded rivalries, laughed until milk shot from their noses, worked blisteringly hard on the farm, staged plays, squeaked through concerts, crafted things of exquisite beauty, and died of embarrassment learning to dance the waltz!

What's true about our American society is that the technical advancements that make this modern age so miraculous also make our lives more isolating and our relationships transient. However, this is not the situation for Waldorf students. They are given the opportunity and time to develop

their emotional intelligence and practice community building. These attributes and concepts are not so easy to describe.

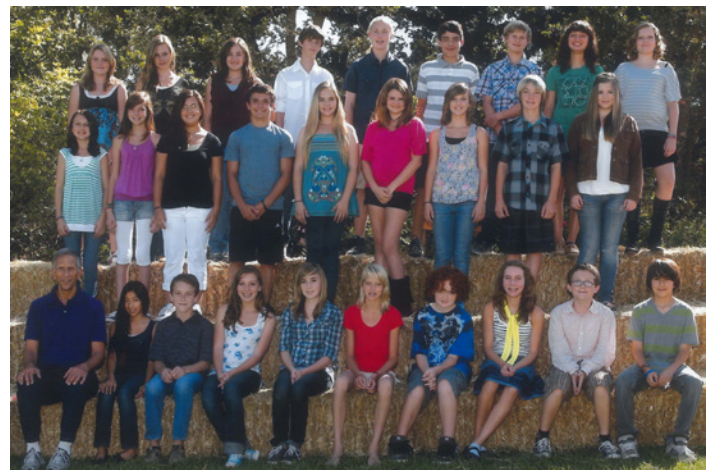
Fortunately, an example of Waldorf students in action, working as a tried-and-true team, collaborating and building community, can be seen at the upcoming Oceans Awareness Celebration and Green Flea Market, which will feature prominent speakers, amazing music, and thoughtful ocean-themed displays and activities. Plus, Class Eight will be recycling and re-selling gently used treasures, household items, Waldorf toys, farm and garden tools, clothing, and sports equipment, as well as wholesome lunches, beverages and tasty treats.

It is our privilege to stand back and watch these amazing students meet this fundraising challenge. It is our responsibility to roll-up our sleeves to ensure they are properly and safely launched on a trip that gives them the opportunity to acknowledge their class of 29 students is coming to a close—it is their time to take their place within the greater community.

**SAVE THE DATE: SUN, MAY 5, 9AM—3PM**  
**CLASS EIGHT'S OCEANS AWARENESS**  
**CELEBRATION & GREEN FLEA MARKET,**  
**AT SUMMERFIELD**



CLASS EIGHT BACK IN FIRST GRADE...



... AND THEIR MOST RECENT CLASS PHOTO IN SEVENTH GRADE

MISSING FROM THIS PHOTO: CASIA ROSE, BENJAMIN VARGAS

# Lady Mustangs an Inspiration!

by Emma Mann, Class Ten parent

The Summerfield Waldorf High School Lady Mustangs were truly an inspiration this basketball season. The team, comprised of Haley Westcott (12), Chloe Serkissian (11), Phoebe Rogers (11), Maya McNichol (11), Sabrina Mann (10), Zoe Hunt (10), Kayla Woodridge (10), Ashlyn Dean (10), and Olivia Ramirez (9), overcame much adversity to end the season on a successful note.

The team began the year with a healthy mix of players from all of the High School grades, but the demands of the school year saw over 40% of the team step down for a variety of reasons. These losses were a big transition for the remaining players and meant that the team had to find new definition and cohesiveness. According to several players and parents, a Rio Lindo Adventist game during the last part of the season was the turning point for this team. The Lady Mustangs, starting with only seven players, lost two of their strong junior players to fouls in a game that was physical from the opening quarter. Those last five team members had to find a new rhythm in the fourth quarter, with the score tied, to stay in the game. While the girls lost that game in the last few minutes, they had found a renewed spirit and purpose. As a parent, it was difficult to watch those girls walk away defeated and demoralized, but what awakened on that court was an inner fire that would lead the girls on to win every subsequent game. This team, not to be defeated, finished the season as winners and went on to win a second consecutive SSBL

championship.

The first battle in the SSBL tournament was against that same Rio Lindo Adventist Academy that had defeated the Lady Mustangs the week prior. The girls went in with heads held high and an ever-burning determination. They went on to beat this team soundly. It was the upset of the season as the fourth seeded team vanquished the first seeded team in a dominating manner. This win allowed them to square off against the third seeded team from Napa Christian. Tense, parents sat in the stands cheering our girls on. Napa Christian, a tough team with a driven coach, gave it their all but it was simply not enough against the unstoppable Lady Mustangs. The girls went on to win the SSBL Tournament for the second straight year, bringing home the coveted first place trophy and receiving the honor of cutting the net at the conclusion of the game.

This stellar performance secured them a place in the North Coast Sectionals. Much to the surprise of all, round one was to be played at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. Against this well-matched number eight-ranked NCS team, the girls needed to prove they belonged in this tournament. With stands teeming with fans from both teams, the SWSF Lady Mustangs fought hard and accomplished what had eluded them the year prior: a win in



the first round of the NCS playoffs. With one win in the NCS behind them, the girls and their families headed off to Eureka to play against the number two-ranked team of St. Bernard's Catholic School. The St. Bernard Crusaders were fierce and, after an early lead, went on to defeat the SWSF Lady Mustangs in a physical match-up. The girls were elated, having played their best and going further than any previous year.

It was an honor for us parents and the SWSF community to witness these girls this past season and to be a part of the magic. To the SWSF community that came to support our team, to the parents and the endless driving to games, and gyms for practice, and ultimately to the girls who at great personal cost balanced school and extracurricular activities to fight hard all season long, Thank you! You are a shining example of what is possible when the will is so strong.

Sadly, Haley Westcott will be leaving after this year, but the team is better for having had her this past season and is anxious to begin training for the 2013-2014 season that awaits.



# Farmyard Reflections as Spring Unfolds

By Farmer Dan

What is beauty? When does a child, perhaps your child, say or feel, “that is beautiful”. Steiner wrote in his lecture “Practical Advice to Teachers” that, “In the pictorial and sculptural realms we look at beauty; In the musical realm, we ourselves become beauty.” When the whole human being perceives something—when the conscious and unconscious come into harmony—there is beauty. A Main Lesson teacher once told me that while singing in the mood of the Fifth, as the children’s voices harmonized and soared together like an eagle on currents of air, he observed that the children *were* the eagle. Music, he said, can make and create what wasn’t there in the first place. Afterwards, one of the students who had been “soaring” told him that her quality of singing “depends on how my heart feels.”

When the children come to the Farm, sometimes the quality of the student’s engagement depends on how their heart feels on any given day. Once, a student, who was not actively engaged and included in the life of his class, asked his teacher quite poignantly, not in so many words, “Who am I as a human being that nobody wants me?” It is not uncommon for some students, or adults for that matter, to feel estranged from the world. The Farm provides a wonderful venue for wholehearted immersion into the natural world and stimulates the necessary connection to a richer inner life simply through physical engagement with what is “real.” The social aspect of gardening, or shoveling

manure, or planting or preparing food, provides a balm for weary souls. The land wants everyone, and when we work together on it, a sense of mutual satisfaction emerges as the plants bloom and the animals thrive and we taste the goodness in the fruits of our labor. The children sit together under the walnut tree after their work and know that they did their work together, that it had deep and real meaning, and often they get to taste the rewards of their labor together. Occasionally, even a few moments of silent listening also prevails while working in the fields—the words of Novalis come to mind to remind me that, so often for the students, “The answers are inside but not conscious.”

A student recently helped me with a new definition of puberty by thoughtfully explaining that “puberty is when parents get difficult.” The seventh graders have been working with copper, hammering out bowls. There is a crucial part of the process that is metaphorically quite beautiful. If the student-artist hammers too long in one spot, the copper hardens and no longer stretches and can split. It is not only a process of visual observation, but also a careful listening to the sound, to ascertain when the copper has reached its limit and can no longer stretch or withstand the constant hammering. Then it needs to be heated up until it glows and radiates and ultimately softens. This is known as annealing, which the dictionary defines as, “To reduce the brittleness of various metals by



PHOTO: ADAM MACKINNON

heating and then slowly cooling.” A process to ponder as a teacher or parent, perhaps.

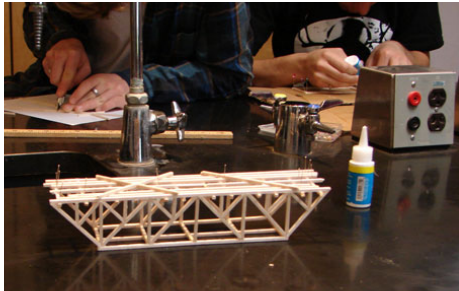
All of a sudden, today it reached the mid-seventies—the greenhouse needs filling, the spring planting schedule was full, the barns and sheep pen were full of winter manure, the cover crop sprung up another foot in height overnight, the student gardens need weeding and the soil turned, the sheep need shearing, and so on and so forth. There seems to be almost enough to do to keep from teasing the students. Time to close, once again with a couple of thoughts from Mary Oliver, “Here is an amazement: once I was twenty years old and in every motion of my body there was a delicious ease, and in every motion of the green earth there was a hint of paradise, and now I am sixty years old, and it is the same.” Also, “Listen to me. There is life without love. It is not worth a bent penny or a scuffed shoe.”

Spring’s richest blessings to you from Summerfield Farm.

# HS Physics Students on the Bridge!

*By Fred Bassett, for the HS Science department*

On Sunday, March 10, many of the tenth grade Physics students took a walk under the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge with the intent of seeing what it is that holds the whole thing up!



The G10 Physics curriculum is focused on the science of Mechanics (motion, static and dynamic force as well as universal gravity). The students will be building their own model bridges that will end in a destructive load test contest on Wednesday, March 27, in the HS Physics Lab. We will test each bridge with progressively more weight to determine which student's bridge can bear the most weight before collapsing. This event is complete with groans and cheers for the most beautiful, structurally efficient and just plain strongest bridges.

## Insects on the Farm

*By Farmer Dana*

I noticed that spring is upon us as I walked the fields, waiting for the heavy clay soils to dry. I passed through a patch of fava beans that we planted in the fall and, upon a closer look, I saw tiny colonies of aphids around the budding flowers. Aphids are one of the more detrimental insects we have on the Farm—not only do they feed on plant sap, weakening the plant, but they also transmit plant diseases. Looking further, I also noticed about nine ladybugs on the same plant. Ladybugs prey on aphids and other plant mites and are one of the most beneficial insects on the Farm. We've noticed a huge ladybug population increase since we started planting flowers on the Farm—some of their favorites are marigolds, statice, coreopsis, yarrow and cosmos.



Last year, we planted a beneficial insectary with the help from High School students. An insectary is a group of plants that provide food and shelter to beneficial insects. Some of the insects considered beneficial are ladybugs, parasitic wasps, native bees and spiders. Some plants native to Northern California that increase beneficial insect population include: California Lilac, California Buckwheat, Coffeeberry, Coyote Brush, Yarrow, Narrow leaf milkweed, Toyon (left) and Blue Elderberry. Some of these have already started flowering on the Farm, and they have only been in the ground less than one year! We are looking forward to the benefits these plants will provide us many years down the road.



*(Continued from Page Two)*

We are giving to ensure that our trusted faculty can help guide our students to their full potential, becoming highly capable, responsible and nurturing individuals who will create needed change, develop new ideas and overcome obstacles, while taking care of others. What better charitable cause than our future?

That leads to the next question: how can we strengthen that culture? We can continue to give freely with our hearts, realizing the importance of gifts in all forms. We can give generously to the greater good of all, sometimes sacrificing in small personal ways, but knowing that what we give will always come back to us in even greater ways. We can eliminate any negative attitudes around money and contributing, as well as change our thinking. Though this type of thinking often goes against modern culture, it can actually help overcome modern obstacles. It's the "against-the-grain thinking" that often creates real change. It also teaches our children that giving is more important in life than getting.

Together we hold a culture of philanthropy at Summerfield. It may be time to acknowledge the power it holds, embrace it, continue to build on it, and celebrate one way we truly can change the world.

# An 11-year-old's Birthday Letter to Mom & Dad

By Rick Concoff, Summerfield HS Teacher

I have been teaching in one form or another over the past 20 years at Summerfield. Whether it was as a music teacher, Values and Virtues Teacher, Guidance Counselor or Comparative Religions teacher, I myself have been taught great insights by parents, students and colleagues regarding moving our children thorough their development to prepare for a successful, happy, fulfilling and responsible adult life.

In an ongoing quest of learning, I have been gathering parents weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8am for “**A Second Cup Of Coffee**” for several months now. The group, which ranges in size from 4-12, discusses parenting issues, concerns, challenges and joys, with an ear towards new strategies and approaches. The group will continue meeting on Tuesday mornings.

Come and join us any time! The following is a blog from my website which the parents found moving:

## What if your adorable child wrote you this letter on his/her 11th birthday?

I am 11 today, and still rather innocent. I know all of the words to the edgiest songs and I sing along, but I don't know yet what they mean. I dance with sexy moves and know the latest slang, and lots of people think it is cute.

I am just noticing my “pre-teen” body and suddenly care what I look like, a lot! I am noticing that you are not as perfect as I thought you were when I was younger, and you are noticing that I am not as willing to please you.

Suddenly, I would rather be with my friends than you, be texting rather than socializing at a family event and would rather eat my dinner in my room. I get moody and fussy and sassy, and have lost some of my child-like charm.

I am harder to wake up in the morning. I am often snarky and rude when you pick me up from school and refuse to “talk about my day.”

I can't wait until I am 12, and 13 will be even better. I will try new things, do things I am not supposed to, be influenced by my peers and, of course, will refuse to accept your hugs and kisses in public. I will complain about my teachers and how unfair and even sometimes stupid they are, but forbid you to call them and tell them or set a meeting. I will make little mistakes and big mistakes.

I will begin to notice that you are “old”, “weird”, not funny, annoying, embarrassing and always telling me what to do. You will have an opinion about everything I want to do or do, and you will not always trust me.

Here is what I want for my birthday: ....

READ THE REST OF THE LETTER ...  
[WWW.PARENTINGPANICBUTTON.COM](http://WWW.PARENTINGPANICBUTTON.COM)

## Come volunteer on the Farm

Come on out and work alongside the farmers in the field. If you like to be outdoors and want to learn more about farming and gardening, come to the Farm on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am. We work until 1pm and take a break with tea and a pot-luck snack mid-morning (it's not required to stay the entire time).

No experience is required to volunteer. In the spring, we are seeding tiny seeds into flats, transplanting and getting the irrigation up and running, and we'll also be trellising a new 200-foot patch of raspberries that was planted last spring.

Whether you want to help your community, learn more about growing food, or just want to get your hands in the soil, we are getting ready to open the Farm up for a new season. Please come on out and volunteer!



PHOTO: MIGUEL SALMERÓN

## From the Board of Directors

Serving on the Board of SWSF is an honor and a pleasure. Those of us who have had the privilege of serving recently can attest that the Board is a highly collaborative body composed of intelligent, capable people who bring a wide array of skills to the task of managing and overseeing the legal and financial matters of the School.

We are now preparing a small slate of nominees to fill the vacancies that will be created when a few members “term out,” and would like to extend an invitation to anyone who has an interest in Board service.



## Quarterly Update from the Governance Council *By Catherine Schlager*

Summerfield's Governance Council has been working diligently these past months to shepherd the School along. Much of our time is spent working with issues that come up in any given week, but we do focus a significant amount of our attention on planning for the future as well.

Each week the GC hears reports from the various Core Groups—High School, Lower School, Early Childhood, Farm and Administrative—in an effort to stay abreast of current issues, to assist in any way possible and to facilitate connection between the sections. We are a large and vibrant school and so we are never at a loss for work to be done! Issues here often focus on meeting the needs of the students in the best way possible, personnel questions, faculty and staff training requests and budgetary issues.

After surveying numerous Waldorf schools in the area, a new approach to screening volunteers who have one-on-one contact with students (including drivers to school events and those who join a class for overnight field trips) has been put in place. More details on this screening method will be forthcoming.

Recently, GC members, along with several Administration staff, attended the Sonoma County Department of Education's School Crisis and Response and Recovery Training. Many schools throughout Sonoma County were represented. We were given valuable tools for planning and implementing interventions in times of crisis. Work in this important area has been ongoing and will continue.

Planning for faculty and staff study of social inclusion and related social issues in our school remains a priority. We hope to spend some of our faculty back-to-school meeting days in August focusing on these topics.

Next year's school calendar is being crafted and should be in place by the end of the month. Input is still being received from various sections of the school. It is so important that school events and breaks are timed in a hygienic way; we are challenged by the richness of our school's offerings as we juggle performances, festivals, trips and lesson block timing. We are keenly aware that a school cannot keep adding to its calendar without taking some things out. So, as we try to find the right balance, work continues.

Your Governance Council members this year are Chris Topham, Renate Lundberg and myself, Catherine Schlager. Ignacio Garat serves as administrative advisor in our meetings, and Cathy Torres is our able scribe. To contact the GC, email Cathy at [cathy@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:cathy@summerfieldwaldorf.org).

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## Summerfield Community Business Profile

*Another profile of one of our family businesses, showcasing the abundant resources and skills in our community:*



### Farming for Mother Nature

*By farmers, Elizabeth & Paul Kaiser (parents of Lucas, in Yellow Rose, and Anna, in Blossoms)*

**Singing Frogs Farm** is a unique ecological farm right here in Sebastopol. The farming choices that we've made benefit Mother Nature by increasing the biodiversity, vitality and resilience of our ecosystem while producing nutrient-dense and delicious food for us Humans! We farm our three acres of diverse vegetable crops using entirely hand tools and hand labor (no tractors or rototillers). This not only greatly benefits the soil microorganisms, but also benefits our wildlife, native ground-nesting bees, the myriad species of beneficial insects, and the nutrient content and quality of our vegetables. In addition, we use plant-based compost to build soil health, and we've established dozens of hedgerows and other habitat areas for pollinators and wildlife—in fact, our farm won the 2010 North American Farmer Rancher Award for Pollinator Conservation, and we're highlighted in the upcoming landmark movie "Symphony of the Soil" by Deborah Koonz Garcia! We offer farm tours, farm events, and a year-round CSA program, plus you can find us at many Farmers' Markets in Sonoma County. With great respect for Mother Nature and our Community,

Elizabeth and Paul Kaiser



**MORE INFO:** [WWW.SINGINGFROGSFARM.COM](http://WWW.SINGINGFROGSFARM.COM)

# The Messenger Marketplace

**The Waldorf Exchange**  
Find **GREAT DEALS**  
on new and previously owned  
**WALDORF ITEMS!**  
thewaldorfxchange.com

**aToyGarden.com**  
Quick Shipping & Free Gift Wrap!  
Wooden Toys  
Dolls & Puppets  
Books & Music  
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Lunch Baskets  
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Woolens & Rain Gear  
Children's Furniture

gardening and puppet shows. 4 mornings per week; \$165 per session. Registration forms are in the Main Office or in the Rosebud preschool foyer. Questions? Call Ms. Catherine at 575-7194 X322.

## Roadrunner Driving School

Got Permit? Let's drive! Spring Break is coming, so call now to schedule your two-hour driving lesson, 546-3238.

## Services

### Farmer Dan Available for your Summer Project

Do you need a chicken coop, fencing, deck repair, shelving, painting, sheet rock, book cases, a wall put up or removed, etc.? Many favorable SWSF family references—child friendly, reasonable rates. Call Farmer Dan at 526-3917 to schedule a summer date.

### For Sale, Rent, Needed

#### Rick Concoff Violins

Quality string instruments for rent or sale at below-market best prices. Rent to own as well. Accessories available too! Call Rick at 823-3916 for an appointment.

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## Classes/Training

### The Rosebud Summer Preschool

Now accepting applications. Sessions run from 6/10 – 8/15. Come and join Ms. Catherine and her assistant Amelie in the Rosebud preschool play yard and classroom for relaxed mornings of verses and song, imaginative play, simple crafting, an organic snack,

## Flea Market Donations Needed

Spring has sprung! Time to clean out your closets; de-clutter your house. SWSF Class 8 is hosting a flea market Sunday, May 5, and are seeking donations. Waldorf toys, used athletic equipment, farm and garden tools are especially welcome. Please bring your clean, gently used small items to Class 8, or arrange for large items to be picked-up by calling Martina: 546-0422 or Sarah: 834-4525. Please note: Class 8 cannot accept TV's, computers, monitors, printers, or large furniture. Donations will be accepted through Thursday, April. 25. Proceeds from the event will be used to support Class 8 field trip to Catalina Island.

### New Family Looking for Rental

Moving from Chicago in June, In search of a rental unit in Sebastopol or Santa Rosa. 2 Bedroom Ideal. Budget Approx \$1200 per month. No pets. Please call, text or email Tom Rough & Piper Davis, 510-847-2065, birdandstar@gmail.com.

### New Family Looking for Rental

Family of 3 seeking 3+ bed, 2.5+ bath home for rent or lease-option. Would love: gas appliances, washer/dryer, guest/granny unit and yard with natural views. 15 minutes or less from Summerfield. Contact Doug or Jen at [info@sunridgepacific.com](mailto:info@sunridgepacific.com).

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### Looking for Summer Housing

Farm Camp teacher and 10-year old daughter looking for a housesitting or occupying situation from 6/15 through 7/30. If you plan to be away from your home, are easygoing but clean and caring of your home environment, live fairly close to Summerfield, and would like to have your house occupied during this time, we would like to help. We are at the Highland Hall Waldorf School. Please leave a message at (661) 414-4827 to see if we might be a fit.

### SWSF Staff Looking for Rental

Sita Janda (of aftercare fame) is looking for a new home, for her family of two, possibly in or around Sonoma or Agua Caliente. Rent around \$950-\$1000. Move in date between 4/20-6/20? 542-8952 or 235-8183.

### Summerfield Family of Four Looking for New Home

Rental or possible purchase. We have one small, well-behaved, non-shedding dog. Prefer Sebastopol or Santa Rosa close to school. Please call Cynthia at 874-2694.

### Vacation Rental Available

Gorgeous family home, private 8 acres, available for vacation rental. 5 minutes to SWSF. Panoramic views. Next to the largest bike trail in west county. Guest house, pool, private soaking tub, sauna, gorgeous kitchen, fireplaces inside and out. [www.vrbo.com/459927](http://www.vrbo.com/459927).

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AND CHILDREN'S CIRCUS IN *CANDYLAND*.

## SHOW DATES AND TIMES:

### CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE: CANDYLAND

**Friday, March 22, at 9am** (\$10 admission—no ticket necessary! Pay at the tent and save money, while avoiding the Saturday crowds!)  
and **Saturday, March 23, at 2pm.**

### ADVANCED CABARET: FIRE AND ICE

**Friday, March 22, at 7pm; Saturday, March 23, 7pm;**  
and **Sunday, March 24, 2pm.**

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$8 for children (2 and under are free while sitting on their adult's lap.) Every attendee needs a ticket, though performers are free!

Get your tickets NOW at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), or in the Main Office.

**Online special:** buy one ticket to the Cabaret of Fire and Ice and receive a ticket to the children's performance of Candyland at half-price! (This offer is good for online ticket purchases only—there will be a code you enter at checkout for the half price ticket for Candyland if you buy a Fire and Ice ticket.)

PLEASE buy your tickets soon, as our yearly performances usually sell out!

